



## PHOTO & CAPTION

# Sharing Water Solutions



*Ang Chiek, Deputy Director of Phnom Penh's Department of Environment tests a water sample from the Lamprey River with a handheld device as delegates from Viet Nam look on.*

**“We would like to cooperate with New Hampshire in a pilot project for the treatment of wastewater along the Mekong River.” Ang Chiek Deputy Director of the Department of the Environment in Phnom Penh.**

Environmental officials from Cambodia and Vietnam toured New Hampshire water facilities recently as part of a University of New Hampshire-led effort to help cities in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) clean up their water.

The exchange visit was part of ASEAN's Environmentally Sustainable Cities initiative, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Council of State Governments.

“We have a lot of industry in Phnom Penh now, but we don't have a central treatment plant. Everything discharges directly in the river, so we are very worried

because the on-site treatment at the factories is not good yet,” said Ang Chiek, deputy director of the city's Department of the Environment.

During their visit, the officials heard presentations from University of New Hampshire, state government and private officials who explained how geographic information system (GIS) mapping can be used to help manage water data. Visiting officials observed demonstrations of water monitoring equipment, and afterwards, officials had a chance to test samples from the swollen Lamprey River for themselves. Site visits included first hand opportunities to observe successful aquaculture, wastewater treatment and waterworks facilities in New Hampshire.

In 2005, NH State Government experts visited Cambodia and Vietnam. All the officials that I met were very supportive of our joint efforts,” said Ihab Farag, UNH professor of chemical engineering, “They feel that this project is very important and timely for their progress both environmentally and economically.” At the conclusion of the exchange visit officials signed memorandum of agreements with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.